

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: RAH COLOR TECHNOLOGIES  
LLC PATENT LITIGATION

Case No. [18-md-02874-SI](#)  
MDL No. 2874

**PRETRIAL ORDER #1**

This Order Relates to:  
ALL CASES

The Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (JPML) has transferred to this Court for coordinated pretrial proceedings certain patent actions relating to the alleged infringement, validity, and enforceability of nine related patents owned by RAH in the field of color management technology, which is used in products such as print servers, printers, and color imaging software. As the number and complexity of these actions warrant holding a single, coordinated initial status conference for all actions in *In Re: RAH Color Technologies LLC Patent Litigation*, MDL No. 2874, the Court ORDERS as follows:

1. **APPLICABILITY OF ORDER:** Prior to the initial conference and entry of a comprehensive order governing all further proceedings in this case, the provisions of this Order shall govern the practice and procedure in those actions that were transferred to this Court by the JPML. This Order also applies to all related actions filed in all divisions of the Northern District of California and all “tag-along actions” later filed in, removed to, or transferred to this Court.

2. **COORDINATION:** The civil actions transferred to this Court or related to the actions

1 already pending before this Court are coordinated for pretrial purposes only. Any “tag-along  
2 actions” later filed in, removed to, or transferred to this Court, or directly filed in the Northern  
3 District of California, will automatically be related to this action without the necessity of future  
4 motions or orders. This coordination does not constitute a determination that the actions should be  
5 consolidated for trial, nor does it have the effect of making any entity a party to any action in which  
6 he, she or it has not been named, served or added in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil  
7 Procedure. To facilitate the efficient coordination of cases in this matter, all parties to this action  
8 shall notify the Panel of other potential related or “tag-along” actions of which they are aware or  
9 become aware.

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11 3. DATE OF INITIAL STATUS CONFERENCE: Matters relating to pretrial and  
12 discovery proceedings in these cases will be addressed at an initial status conference to be held on  
13 **Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.** before Judge Susan Illston in Courtroom 1, 17th Floor,  
14 United States Courthouse, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California. Counsel are  
15 expected to familiarize themselves with the *Manual for Complex Litigation, Fourth* (“MCL 4th”) and  
16 be prepared at the conference to suggest procedures that will facilitate the expeditious,  
17 economical and just resolution of this litigation. If the parties have any suggestions as to any case  
18 management orders or agenda items for the initial status conference, these suggestions shall be filed  
19 with the Court **by January 8, 2019**.

20 **By January 8, 2019**, the parties shall file a joint written submission advising the Court as to  
21 the status of all litigation pending in this MDL matter, as well as the status of all potential tag-along  
22 cases. The submission shall also advise the Court of the steps the parties have taken to preserve  
23 relevant evidence, including electronically stored information. Counsel shall be prepared at the  
24 initial conference to answer questions from the Court regarding the written submission, litigation  
25 status and evidence preservation.

26 The submission shall also contain a brief written statement indicating the parties’  
27 preliminary understanding of the facts involved in the litigation and the critical factual and legal  
28 issues. These statements will not be binding, will not waive claims or defenses, and may not be

1 offered in evidence against a party in later proceedings. The parties' statements shall identify all  
2 cases that have been transferred to or related before this Court, and shall identify all pending motions  
3 in those cases. The statement shall also list all related cases pending in state or federal court (that  
4 have not already been transferred to this Court), together with their current status, including any  
5 discovery taken to date, to the extent known.

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7 4. INITIAL CONFERENCE APPEARANCES: Each party shall appear at the initial  
8 status conference through the party's attorney who will have primary responsibility for the party's  
9 interest in this litigation. Counsel other than the attorney who will have primary responsibility for  
10 a party's interest in this litigation may listen to the initial conference by phone. To request a  
11 telephone appearance, counsel shall contact the Courtroom Clerk, Tracy Kasamoto, at (415) 522-  
12 2028 no later than **January 8, 2019**. A party will not by designating an attorney to represent the  
13 party's interest at the conference be precluded from other representation during the litigation, nor  
14 will attendance at the conference waive objections to jurisdiction, venue or service.

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16 5. RESPONSE EXTENSION AND STAY: Defendants are granted an extension of  
17 time for responding by motion or answer to the complaint(s) until a date to be set by this Court.  
18 Pending the initial case management conference and further orders of this Court, all outstanding  
19 discovery proceedings are stayed, and no further discovery shall be initiated. Moreover, all pending  
20 motions must be re-noticed for resolution once the Court sets a schedule for any such motions. Any  
21 orders, including protective orders, previously entered by any transferor district court shall remain  
22 in full force and effect unless modified by this Court upon application.

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24 6. MASTER DOCKET FILE: The Clerk of the Court will maintain a master docket  
25 case file under the style "*In Re: RAH Color Technologies LLC Patent Litigation*," No. M 18-2874-  
26 SI, and the identification of "MDL No. 2874." When a pleading is intended to apply to all actions,  
27 this shall be indicated by the words: "This Document Relates to All Cases." When a pleading is  
28 intended to apply to fewer than all cases, this Court's docket number of each individual case to

1 which the document relates shall appear immediately after the words “This Document Relates to.”

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3 7. FILING: Each attorney of record is obligated to become a Northern District of  
4 California ECF User and be assigned a user ID and password for access to the system. If she or he  
5 has not already done so, counsel shall register forthwith as an ECF User and be issued an ECF User  
6 ID and password. Forms and instructions can be found on the Court’s website at  
7 www.cand.uscourts.gov/cm-ecf. Registration instructions for *pro se* parties who wish to e-file can  
8 be found on the Court’s website at www.cand.uscourts.gov/ECF/proseregistration.

9 All documents shall be e-filed in the master file, No. 18-md-2874-SI. Documents that  
10 pertain to one or only some of the pending actions shall *also* be e-filed in the individual case(s) to  
11 which the documents pertain.

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13 8. DOCKETING NEW CASES: When an action that properly belongs as part of *In Re:*  
14 *RAH Color Technologies LLC Patent Litigation* is filed after the date of this Order in the Northern  
15 District of California or transferred here from another court, the Clerk of this Court shall:

- 16 a. File a copy of this Order in the separate file for such action;
- 17 b. Make an appropriate entry on the master docket sheet;
- 18 c. Mail to the attorneys for the plaintiff in the newly filed or transferred case a copy of  
19 this Order; and
- 20 d. Upon the first appearance of any new defendant, mail to the attorneys for the  
21 defendant in such newly filed or transferred cases a copy of this Order.
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23 9. APPEARANCES: Counsel who are not admitted to practice before the Northern  
24 District of California must file an application to be admitted *pro hac vice*. See N.D. Cal. Civ. L.R.  
25 11-3. The requirement that *pro hac vice* counsel retain local counsel, see N.D. Cal. Civ. L.R. 11-  
26 3(a)(3), 11-3(e), is waived and does not apply to this MDL action.

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28 10. PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE: All parties and counsel are reminded of their

1 duty to preserve evidence that may be relevant to this action, including electronically stored  
2 information. Any evidence preservation order previously entered in any of the transferred actions  
3 shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Court. Until the parties reach an  
4 agreement on a preservation plan for all cases or the Court orders otherwise, each party shall take  
5 reasonable steps to preserve all evidence that may be relevant to this litigation. Counsel, as officers  
6 of the court, are obligated to exercise all reasonable efforts to identify and notify parties and  
7 nonparties, including employees of corporate or institutional parties, of their preservation  
8 obligations.

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10 11. FILING OF DISCOVERY REQUESTS: In accordance with Rule 5(d) of the Federal  
11 Rules of Civil Procedure, discovery requests and responses are not to be filed with the Clerk nor  
12 sent to the Judge's Chambers, except to the extent needed in connection with a motion.

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14 12. LIAISON COUNSEL: Prior to the initial status conference, counsel for all parties  
15 shall, to the extent they have not already done so, confer regarding whether this case would benefit  
16 from the selection of a candidate for the position of liaison counsel who will be charged with  
17 essentially administrative matters and, if so, who that candidate should be and what the duties should  
18 be.

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20 13. DISCOVERY AND PROTECTIVE ORDER: Counsel should be prepared to discuss  
21 mechanisms for coordinating discovery efforts. Counsel shall also be prepared to discuss a  
22 stipulated protective order and, if possible, present one to the Court for its consideration. In the  
23 event a stipulation cannot be reached, the Court will execute a protective order generally in the form  
24 to the Northern District of California's model stipulated protective order unless/until the parties  
25 present the Court with a joint submission.

1           14.     COMMUNICATION WITH THE COURT

2           Unless otherwise ordered by this Court, all substantive communications with the Court shall  
3 be in writing and e-filed. The Court recognizes that cooperation by and among counsel for all parties  
4 is essential for the orderly and expeditious resolution of this litigation. The communication of  
5 information among and between plaintiffs' counsel and among and between defendants' counsel  
6 shall not be deemed a waiver of the attorney-client privilege or the protection afforded attorneys'  
7 work product, and cooperative efforts contemplated above shall in no way be used against any  
8 plaintiff by any defendant or against any defendant by any plaintiff. Nothing contained in this  
9 provision shall be construed to limit the rights of any party or counsel to assert the attorney-client  
10 privilege or attorney work product doctrine.

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12           **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

13       Dated: December 14, 2018



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SUSAN ILLSTON  
United States District Judge